

*Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost*

*October 22, 2023*



*First Congregational Church of Fresno  
United Church of Christ  
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.  
Fresno, CA 93704*

*Rev. Stephanie Doss  
Guest Pastor*

## Our Gathering

(\*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

### Prelude

John Morrice, violin  
Scott Horton, piano

### Welcome

Rev. Stephanie Doss, guest pastor

### \*Call to Worship (Inspired by Exodus 33:12-23)

Wayne Brown, liturgist

One: Let us worship the Holy One who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

**All: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.**

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of the Lord.

**All: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.**

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

**All: God is worthy to be praised!**

### \*Hymn

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"

#7, pew hymnal

### Opening Prayer

Wayne Brown

***Revealing God, you show us the way of life, lead us with love, and move us to compassion. May our hearts be transformed by your Spirit and by your Truth. Let our actions and attitudes demonstrate your kingdom. May justice and peace be our hope. Let repair, restoration, and reconciliation be our aim. Make your presence among us known. Let us prepare to receive it. Amen.***

### Choral Anthem

"Oh, Shout for Joy" - arr. T. Fetteke

Chancel Choir  
John Morrice, violin

### Time for Discovery [children are invited to the chancel steps]

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;  
let this be our song — no one stands alone,  
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

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## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.*

*Hymn	"I Would Be True"	#492, pew hymnal
Scripture	Psalms 96:1-9; Matthew 22:15-22	Wayne Brown
Sermon	"It's Complicated"	Rev. Stephanie Doss

## Sung Call to Prayer

**Lord, listen to your children praying:  
Lord send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying:  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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Prayers of the Church	Rev. Stephanie Doss
Stewardship Moment	Rebecca Snyder FCCF Chief Financial Officer
Invitation to Generosity	Wayne Brown



*Here at the Big Red Church, everyone counts, and every gift counts!*

- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

**Offertory**

John Morrice, violin and Scott Horton, piano

**\*Doxology** (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Rev. Stephanie Doss

**\*Closing Hymn**

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

#476, pew hymnal

**Announcements**

Jeannie Hobson, Moderator

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Stephanie Doss

**\*Blessing Song**

**“Go Now in Peace”**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world will see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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**Postlude**

“Toccata on *OLD HUNDREDTH*” - arr. Burkhardt

Scott Horton, organ

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude*

# This Week at Big Red

## Monday, October 23

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, October 24

## Wednesday, October 25

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

## Thursday, October 26

## Friday, October 27

- ♦ 9:30am: BRC Pantry food prep for "Free Food Saturday"
- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Saturday, October 28

- ♦ 10:00am: BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday"

## Sunday, October 29

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Rev. Dr. Norman Broadbent, guest pastor  
Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour - Fellowship Hall

**New!**

**In house pantry hours:**

**Monday & Wednesday:**

**9:30am to 3pm**

**Friday: 9:30am to 12:30pm**

**The annual Halloween Party will be on October 31st from 5pm to 8pm.**

**There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for volunteers and donations.**

**Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

# **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

## **Guest in the Pulpit**

Rev. Stephanie Doss

## **Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton

## **Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

Pat Morales

## **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

## **Office Administrator**

Kymberly Lindsey

Office@bigredchurch.org

## **Technicians**

Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

## **Assisting in Today's Service**

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Wayne Brown

Ushers: Cliff Dodd

Technician: Karisa Garza

Acolytes: Hudson & Avery

Coffee Hour: Jacquie Shore

## **FCCF Open and Affirming Statement**

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us.

We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.

# All People That on Earth Do Dwell

7

William Kethe, 1561

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

Ps. 100

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing  
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who  
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with  
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose  
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us  
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our  
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, Whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.  
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.  
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Old Hundredth is perhaps the best known and most widely used of all psalm tunes. It came into English use in 1561 with Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 100 and has been associated with it ever since.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.  
Attrib. to Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510–c. 1561)  
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551



Phil. 4:8-9

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917

St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be  
 2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be  
 3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus-y mo-ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for  
 giv-ing, and for-get the gift; I would be hum-ble,  
 con-stant-ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf-fer; I would be brave, for  
 for I know my weak-ness; I would look up, and  
 sense God's slight-est whis-per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
 laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.  
 keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he taught English before becoming a Congregational minister. Walter died at the age of thirty-five while working for the Y.M.C.A. in India.

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.  
 Joseph Y. Peek, 1911



# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,  
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.  
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?